Implementation of Government orders by R.R.Bs.

2662. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the Regional Rural Banks that have so far implemented Annexure VI of Government's order dated 22nd February, 1991;

(b) of these, which are the Regional Rural Banks that are sponsored by SBI and Bank of India; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against the defaulting Regional Rural Banks and sponsoring Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India's instructions dated 22nd February, 1991 regarding implementation of the award of the National Industrial Tribunal will be implemented by all Regional Rural Banks. During the course of implementation of the Government orders, certain issues have arisen which require detailed consideration. A Working Group has accordingly been constituted in NABARD to frame service rules, promotion and recruitment policy and also to attend to other matters arising out of the implementation of the award of the National Industrial Tribunal.

Debt relief claimed by Regional Rural Banks

2663. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of debt relief claimed by Regional Rural Banks from Government;

(b) what is the amount so far released to Regional Rural Banks against debt relief;

(c) what is the time period of claims pending and interest lost thereon; and

(d) by when the balance amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) National Banks for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that as on 7th December, 1991, the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have submitted claims aggregating Rs. 803.72 crores under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990. The RRBs have so far been sanctioned advance grants under the scheme to the tune of Rs. 411.68 crores out of which, they have drawn Rs. 400.90 crores upto 7th December, 1991.

(c) and (d) Under ARDR Scheme, the Central Government provides full reimbursements in case of Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks, while in case of cooperatives, such reimbursement is fifty percent. The extent of reimbursements is subject to the provisions made in the budget of Government for that purpose. A sum of Rs. 1500 crores was provided in the budget of 1990-91 and utilised for the purpose of reimbursements to public sector banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks. A further sum of Rs. 1500 crores has been Provided in the current year's budget and 1000 crores have already been utilised. The remaining amount of this year's budget will be shortly released for reimbursement to cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks. The balance amount is proposed to be provided in the budget of the next year.

Security deposits for Bank Lockers

2664. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that some branches of Oriental Bank of Commerce and other nationalised banks in Faridabad (Haryana) have increased the inoperative security deposit amount and monthly rent in respect of lockers already allotted to customers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and justification for such arbitrary action with retrospective effect; and

(c) what are the rules regarding allotment of lockers to customers by branches of nationalised banks and whether they are on uniform basis; if not, reasons for disparity and action contemplated to implement uniform rules in this regard to avoid harassment to customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Oriental Bank of Commerce have recently increased the locker rent by Rs. 50/- per annum, after a period of six years. This has been done to meet the increased cost of operations and investments in locker cabinets. The increased rent is applicable to lockers given to new customers. For existing customers increased rent will be payable at the time of payment of annual rent. The bank has also reported that customers in Faridabad have been asked to increase their security deposit so that interest earned on deposit is equivalent to the annual rent payable for the lockers.

As regards other nationalised banks, it may be mentioned that rates of locker rent vary from bank to bank and depend upon the size of the locker, capital cost incurred on installation, expenditure on maintenance, etc. The locker facility is not a normal banking operation and is provided to customers by banks on lease basis subject to availability and feasibility.

(c) In the matter of allotment of lockers, public sector banks are governed by guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The said guidelines inter-alia provide that at least 80 per cent of lockers should be allotted by banks of first-come-first-served basis and remaining 20 per cent on business considerations. There is no objection to the banks seeking deposits from the locker holders to cover annual rent of the lockers from the interest on deposits.

Promotion /postings in Unit Trust of India

2665. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for promotion/ posting in the Unit Trust of India;

(b) whether there is any discrimination between male and female employees in the matter of transfer on promotion, if so, the details therefore; and

(c) the number of employees promoted during the last three years and whether they were transferred on promotion and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The norms for promotion/posting in the Unit Trust of India (UTI) are based mainly on minimum years of service, performance report, written test and interview in accordance with the policy approved by its Board.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) During the last three years, 230 employees were promoted out of which 23 were transferred as per UTI's requirements.

Tax evasion by Auto Parts Dealers

2666.'SHRI RAFIOUE ALAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shipowners .dealing in auto parts in the Mangolpuri area, Delhi are not paying any Income Tax, Sales Tax, etc. to the authorities;

(b) whether Government propose to enquire the matter through CBI; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) A large number of them are paying